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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/606,380	06/24/2003	Thomas A. Maufer	NVDA P000605	4738
26291	7590	05/04/2007	EXAMINER	
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN L.L.P. 595 SHREWSBURY AVE, STE 100 FIRST FLOOR SHREWSBURY, NJ 07702				BRUCKART, BENJAMIN R
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2155				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/04/2007		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/606,380	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MAUFER ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b> Benjamin R. Bruckart	<b>Art Unit</b> 2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2003.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 1-76 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-76 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) 1-76 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on 24 June 2003 is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

· Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Detailed Action**

Claims 1-76 are pending in this Office Action.

**Change of Address**

The change of address received on 12/17/04 has been entered.

**Election/Restrictions**

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-18, are drawn to a method for data lookup for firewalls and NAT and method for creating data structures, classified in class 709, subclass 238.
- II. Claims 9-24 are drawn to a method for security protocol support, classified in class 709, subclass 225.
- III. Claims 25-27 are drawn to a method for creating at least one data structure with active and inactive firewall and NAT, classified in class 709, subclass 225.
- IV. Claims 28-30 are drawn to a data structure for routing packets with IP destination and resolution tables, classified in class 709, subclass 230.
- V. Claims 31-33 are drawn to a method of forming hashing table chains, classified in class 709, subclass 238.
- VI. Claims 34-65 are drawn to a method for tracking packet states, classified in class 709, subclass 224.
- VII. Claims 66-76 are drawn to a method for network protocol processing with control headers and parsing out info into data structures, classified in class 709, subclass 238.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reason:

Invention Groups I-VII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention in Group I has separate utility such as a method for data lookup for firewalls and NAT and method for creating data structures. See MPEP § 806.05(c). Invention in Group II has separate utility and is a method for security protocol support. Group III has separate utility such as method for creating at least one data structure with active and inactive firewall and NAT. Group IV has separate utility such as a data structure for routing packets with IP destination and resolution tables. Group V has separate utility such as a method of forming hashing table chains. Group VI has separate utility such as a method for tracking packet states. Group VII has separate utility such as to a method for network protocol processing with control headers and parsing out info into data structures.

Inventions in Groups I - VII are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are (1) data lookup for firewalls and NAT and method for creating data structures, (2) security protocol support, (3) creating at least one data structure with active and inactive firewall and NAT, (4) routing packets with IP destination and resolution tables, (5) a method of forming hashing table chains, (6) tracking packet states, and (7) network protocol processing with control headers and parsing out info into data structures.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reason given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Groups II-VII, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Applicant is reminded that to traverse this requirement on the grounds that the groups are not patentably distinct, applicant should present evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the groups to be obvious variations of one another. If the groups are determined not to be patentably distinct and they remain in this application, any rejection of one group over prior art will apply equally to all other embodiments. See Ex parte Appeal No. 315-40, 152 USPQ 71 (Bd. App. 1965). No argument asserting patentability based on the differences between the groups will be considered once the groups have been determined to comprise a single inventive concept.

### **Specification**

The first page contains cross-reference to related applications which refer to their application number. These application numbers need to be updated with patent numbers, publication numbers or removed.

### **Drawings**

A new clean copy of the claims is requested. The pages entered contain grainy images and are difficult to read.

### **Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin R Bruckart whose telephone number 571-272-3982.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (571) 273-8300 for regular communications and after final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the examiner whose telephone number is 571-272-3982.

Benjamin R Bruckart  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2155

*BRS*

*Saleh Najjar*  
SALEH NAJJAR  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER